

**Remarks**

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 4-16 are currently pending in the application; Claims 1-3 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claims 4-16 having been amended, by way of the present response.

Applicants express thanks for the Examiner's indication that Claims 4-16 recite allowable subject matter, such that the claims would be allowable if rewritten to overcome a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112. In response, for the following reasons, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection has been overcome. Thus, in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of Claims 4-12.

In the Office Action, Claims 4-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In response, Applicants have amended independent Claims 4 and 12 to recite that "the soldering iron include[es] the injection port," thereby reciting a relation between the gas injection mechanism and the soldering iron recited in the claims. Applicants have further amended each of Claims 4-16 in a non-narrowing manner to remedy potential informalities, and place the claims in better condition for examination. Thus, as discussed above, in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of Claims 4-16.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,937,006 to Bickford et al. (Bickford). Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bickford in view of Japanese Publication No. 6-170522 to Kobayashi. Applicants respectfully assert that the rejections of Claims 1-3 have been overcome by the cancellation of the claims without prejudice or

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disclaimer.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 4-16 is earnestly solicited.

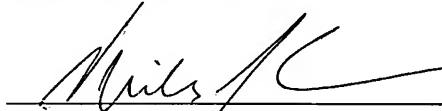
Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

  
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Gregory J. Maier  
Registration No. 25,599  
Attorney of Record

Philip J. Hoffmann  
Registration No. 46,340